

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## **REGION 6** 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

March 17, 1992

Michael E. Cavalier, P.E. Senior Project Manager Weston 5599 Dan Felipe Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77056

Comments on the Remedial Design Consent Decree for Arkwood Superfund Site, Omaha, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Cavalier:

Please find attached a copy of McKesson Service Merchandisers Co. comments to DOJ on the Arkwood RD consent decree. It seems as if McKesson Corporation has some fundamental disagreements with the former MMI shareholders. Many of the comments presented by ERM parallel the points you made last week.

If possible, I would like to have your review comments by 3/27/92. The following issues should be included;

the adequacy of the data collected in the RI to estimate the 1) volume and concentration of material to be treated vs the new information presented by Dr. Bern of IT Corp. Dr. Bern contends that the original sampling program was biased,

whether the sampling method outlined in the SOW is adequate to further define the volume of soil to be remediated during predesign studies,

ERM's analysis of the cost effectiveness of offsite incineration vs onsite incineration, and MOOT we died in present. 3)

the technical merit of biotreatment as proposed by Dr. Bern 4) and refuted by ERM. Wout Dispin = Yes rely.

incerely,

Rick Ehrhart

Remedial Project Manager AK/IA Section (6H-EA)

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> COUNTELL EDWARD B. OILLON, JR.

March 10, 1992

Assistant Attorney General Environment & Natural Resources Division United States Department of Justice 10th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20530

Federal Express

<u>United States v. Mass Merchandisers. Inc.,</u> D. J. Ref. 90-11-2-190A

Dear Sir:

Mass Merchandisers, Inc. ("MMI," now McKesson Service Merchandising Co.) submits this letter and the accompanying attachment in response to the request for public comments published by the Department in the Federal Register on February 4, 1992. 57 Fed. Reg. 4216. In particular, MMI wishes to respond to the comments which it understands have been filed in a letter dated March 4, 1992, by Martha C. Brand of Leonard, Street & Deinard on behalf of a group of former MMI shareholders.

The comments of the former shareholders present a very narrow claim. They contend that uncertainty about affected soils volumes makes it imperative that alternative treatment remedies that will meet the Record of Decision ("ROD") cleanup standards not be precluded by the consent decree. The former shareholders contend that entry of the decree should be postponed until an \$8,000 field screening program is performed to delineate more precisely the volumes of affected soils and other materials to be treated at the site. According to the former shareholders, the information that would be developed by their proposed screening program would lead to the selection of a more cost-effective remedy at the site. More specifically, the former shareholders argue that biological treatment should be added in lieu of, or in MITCHELL, WILLIAMS, SELIG, GATES & WOODYARD

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advance of, the incineration of any affected materials. They also argue that off-site incineration will be more cost-effective than on-site incineration if any further treatment is needed after the biological treatment step.

Because the former shareholders' comments depend primarily on technical questions regarding the adequacy of the data currently available about the site, MMI asked ERM-Southwest, the professional consulting firm that performed the site Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, to review the former shareholders' comments. A copy of ERM-Southwest's review is attached as Exhibit A to this letter. Based on ERM-Southwest's analysis, MMI offers the following comments on the former shareholders' contentions.

First, MMI doubts that the \$8,000 screening program proposed by the former shareholders would produce any meaningful new information. The field screening program proposed by the former shareholders, according to ERM-Southwest, would screen samples for pentachlorophenol ("PCP") only and therefore would be considerably more limited than the pre-design studies called for by the Statement of Work (Appendix B of the decree), which will combine field screening for PCP and confirmatory laboratory analysis for PCP, PNAs, and dioxin.

Second, MMI rejects the notion that there are inadequate data to proceed with entry of the consent decree at the present time. It is always possible to argue that more sampling and analytical data would provide a better understanding of a Superfund site. As a practical matter, however, if one sampled every square foot of a site, the costs of collecting and analyzing the samples would rapidly exceed even the most costly remedy. At some point the experts and regulators most familiar with the site must make a decision that there are enough data available to make a well-informed decision regarding the proper remedy. In this case ERM-Southwest has already collected and analyzed a substantial number of samples. Furthermore, as a part of the pre-design work required by the consent decree, there will be additional samples collected and analyzed. Based on ERM-Southwest's analysis of the former shareholders' comments, MMI does not see any plausible basis for the contention that the data available regarding PCP or dioxin at the site are insufficient to/ develop volume and cost estimates.

Third, while MMI shares the interest of its former shareholders in seeking the most cost-effective remedy for the site in question, MMI believes that many of the concerns advanced in the former shareholders' comments arise out of a lack of familiarity on their part with the prior history of operations at

Agree

Mitchell, Williams, Selio, Gates & Woodyard

Assistant Attorney General March 10, 1992 Page 3

the site and the fairly extensive body of data regarding environmental conditions and treatment costs. Exhibit A refutes the contention that there are "too many unknowns" at this time.

Fourth, Dr. Bern's report simply does not support Ms. Absolutely Brand's contention that further sampling will produce volumes that would make his remedy cost effective.

Fifth, Figure 1 and Table 1 of Exhibit A graphically portray the cost ineffectiveness of off-site incineration, even assuming it were available for the Arkwood soil and sludges.

Finally, with respect to the three enumerated requests in the concluding paragraph of Ms. Brand's letter, MMI submits that:

- (1) It agrees that the Department should consider the exchange of views reflected in Ms. Brand's submittal and MMI's comments. Indeed, it is MMI's understanding that the Department is obligated by its own regulations to do so. See 28 C.F.R. \$ 50.7.
- (2) MMI does not object to postponing the entry of judgment until May 1, 1992 to allow further dialogue between Dr. Bern and MMI's consultants. However, based on the review of Dr. Bern's comments by MMI's consultants which is reflected in the attachment to this letter, it appears that most of Dr. Bern's concerns arise out of his inaccurate or incomplete understanding of the Arkwood site.
- (3) MMI flatly rejects the former shareholders' unsubstantiated suggestions that the samples collected during the Feasibility Study are "biased" in any way. MMI agrees that further sampling is appropriate, and reiterates that such sampling is called for by the predesign work contemplated by the decree as it is currently written. For the foregoing reasons, MMI doubts that the \$8,000 effort proposed by Dr. Bern would significantly advance an understanding of the site or warrant a change in the decree.

MMI remains ready to answer any questions or provide any further information which the Department or the district court may have.

## MITCHELL WILLIAMS, SELIG, GATES & WOODYARD

Assistant Attorney General March 10, 1992 Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

MITCHELL, WILLIAMS, SELIG GATES & WOODYARD

By

Allan Gates

Counsel for MMI

AG:gs Attachment

cc: Molly E. Hall, Esq. Richard L. Ehrhart / Martha C. Brand, Esq.

16000 Memorial Orive • Suite 200 • Houston, Texas 77079-4006 • (713) 496-9600 • Fax (713) 496-9698

March 9, 1992

Ms. Jean A. Mescher McKesson Corporation One Post Street, 28th Floor San Francisco, CA 94101-5296

W.O. #92-19

Re: Arkwood, Inc. Site

Technical Response to Dr. Bern's Letter dated March 3, 1992 and Ms. Martha Brand's Letter dated March 4. 1992

Dear Ms. Mescher:

We have reviewed the latest correspondence from Dr. Joseph Bern and from Ms. Martha Brand regarding suggested changes to the EPA's selected soil remedy required by the Record of Decision (ROD). While we agree that it makes sense to use the most cost effective means to treat whatever volume of soil may exist at the Arkwood site, we feel the technical reasoning behind their arguments is flawed.

Throughout Dr. Bern's correspondence, he states that the FS has overestimated the volume of soil which needs to be excavated and treated. He supports this by contending that we have been too conservative in our approach to delineating the 300 mg/kg PCP isopleth and we have based our calculations for dioxin on a biased sampling program, an insufficient amount of data and incorrect assumptions regarding its distribution.

He further contends that only a small fraction of the material on site will fail the cleanup criteria and will require incineration after his proposed biotreatment.

The following sections address these issues.

## I. PREDESIGN SAMPLING PROGRAM

In the March 4, 1992 letter from Martha Brand to the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of the former MMI shareholders, Ms. Brand states "Dr. Bern has concluded that based on the on-site soil sampling that has been done to date, ... there is insufficient data on the volume of soils that must be excavated at the site and the concentrations of PCPs, dioxins and FNA in those soils..." She further states that "An unbiased sampling program must be implemented in the pre-design stage beyond that called for in the Statement of Work..." and that "Dr. Bern has suggested an unbiased

## EXHIBIT A

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AP066092-C92

NEW ORLEANS: 3501 N. Causeway Bivd. • Suite 200 • Metairie. LA 70002 • (504) 831-6700 • Fax (504) 831-6742

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Allow Spring Valley Road • Suite 200 • Dallas, Texas 75244 • (214) 458-7272 • Fax (214) 458-7204

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Ms. Jean A. Mescher McKesson Corporation March 9, 1992

field screening program that will cost approximately \$8,000 to determine if the pattern to the PCP contamination on the site is as delineated by McKesson.\*

We feel there are three major deficiencies in Ms. Brand's comments regarding Dr. Bern's proposed sampling program.

First of all, we agree additional data is needed prior to design. That is the reason the Statement of Work (SOW) includes the requirement that "Prior to beginning the Remedial Design, a series of Predesign Studies will be performed to gather additional data V necessary for design." Although we feel the information contained in the FS was sufficient and accurate enough to perform the necessary evaluation of remedial alternatives, we do not feel comfortable basing our final remedial design solely on that data.

perceives as our misinterpretation of dioxin data, his sampling for program does not include any further sampling or analysis. dioxin. This means that after his proposed sampling program is complete, we will not have any more information than we currently have regarding the presence or distribution of dioxin.

Thirdly, we assume the additional \$8,000 sampling program Ms. Brand refers to is the one Dr. Bern mentions in his March 3 letter. His proposal is to develop a sampling program based on use of the Ensys, Inc., immunoassay kit which, he notes, he cannot guarantee will work or will cost the \$50 per test as predicted by the manufacturer. This is a field screening device for PCP only. His proposed sampling program makes no mention of any confirmatory laboratory analyses to prove the field kits nor does he mention the mobilization or labor costs associated with such a sampling program.

The sampling program in the SOW already includes a proposed field screening method for PCP. The Ensys, Inc., method will likely be the method used. Therefore, the program proposed by Dr. Bern is already incorporated in the SOW sampling program. In addition, the SOW sampling program will include:

o Ten samples roughly within a boundary very close to the one in mel or. Bern provided in his Pahrusee 24 latter

o Up to 60 additional sample locations at three vertical intervals (6 inch increments) on a 50 foot grid between the boundary of the area mentioned above and our 300 materials boundary of the area mentioned above and our 300 mg/kg well isopleth, and

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Ms. Jean A. Mescher McKesson Corporation March 9, 1992

o Six additional borings up to 7 feet deep and sampled up to eight times per boring in the main site's 1 to 5 foot excavation area.

All of these samples in our proposed program will be analyzed for PCP in the laboratory using a GC/MS (SW-846 8270). During the course of collecting the above samples for shipment to the laboratory, we will split up to 30 samples and analyze them for PCP in half the field with field test kits (most likely the Ensys). This will will the field with field test kits (most likely the Ensys). allow us to verify the accuracy of the field test kits. In addition, we will analyze up to ten of the collected samples for dioxin to support the correlation we believe exists between the PCP levels and dioxin levels and we will analyze up to twenty five of the collected samples for c-PNAs to support the correlation we believe may exist between the PCP levels and c-PNAs.

We feel our program will give a much more definitive answer than the one proposed by Dr. Bern since ours will include laboratory and field analysis of PCP plus additional analyses for dioxin and c-PNAs.

#### II. QUANTITY OF MATERIAL REQUIRING INCINERATION

Dr. Bern claims that only three percent of the total affected  $\langle \chi \rangle$ material will need to be incinerated off-site using his proposed remedy. You have informed us that Dr. Bern conceded that the three percent number was only a guess and is not supported by any of the RI/FS or treatability data.

In his original proposal outlined in his February 24 letter, Dr. F5 also Bern advocates the removal of wood particles prior to treatment by showed sieve and wash. However, he makes no comment regarding their treatment. According to the FS treatability studies, the wood wood particles alone may constitute up to two percent of the material on constitute up to two percents of the material on the the site. Since we would expect these particles to fail the wast cleanup criteria and require incineration, one must conclude that the remaining one percent of Dr. Bern's original three percent estimate for material requiring incineration would result from dioxin-containing biological treatment residue. We do not find any data which will support this assumption.

Since the dioxin will not biodegrade and will concentrate in the Jewishid biologically treated fines residue, Dr. Bern's estimate may be off by as much as a factor of six an much as a factor of six and much by as much as a factor of six or more. The impact which increased quantities of material requiring instantant increased quantities of material requiring incineration even twofold will have on treatment costs is shown graphically in Figure 1 and Berndetailed in Table 1. The information illustrates the effect on the Way

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Ms. Jean A. Mescher McKesson Corporation March 9, 1992

EPA selected soil remedy and Dr. Bern's remedy using both his three percent values and a potential six percent value of residual material.

In a telephone conversation with the operator of the Coffeyville, Kansas, incinerator, the operator indicated they had just completed their test burn but had not yet resolved certain problems which would allow them to routinely accept dioxin containing waste. He also indicated the cost of incinerating dioxin wastes would likely be double that charged for other wastes. The incinerator is currently charging \$1.00 to \$1.20 per pound for materials accepted. Figure 1 is based on \$1.00 per pound.

A review of Figure 1 indicates that a remedy incorporating off-site Transitioneration is highly sensitive to volumes and could result in factorially escalating costs.

## III. SITE OPERATIONS

Many of the arguments Dr. Bern makes to support his claim regarding dioxin data are possibly due to his not having all the facts regarding operations at the site.

Several clarifications may answer some of Dr. Bern's concerns expressed in his March 3 letter. These clarifications are as follows:

- o The material used to treat the wood at the site was composed of approximately 95% diesel oil or Number 2 fuel oil and 5% PCP (dioxin was a contaminant of PCP),
- o The material in the trolley track area is of the same composition as material in the main yard. After pressure treatment, the wood was temporarily stored on the trolley track until it was moved onto the main yard, and
- o While stored on the main yard, the treated wood continued to "weep". The majority of the staining observed during the Remedial Investigation (RI) is associated with the weeping of the wood.
- o Residue from the treatment process was occasionally used for dust control on the site roadway using a mixture of mostly water with some wood treatment oils.

operations

Ms. Jean A. Mescher McKesson Corporation March 9, 1992

Based on these operational facts, one must conclude dioxin is distributed in approximately the same ratio as the PCP and petroleum oil for the main site and the trolley track area.

# IV. CONCLUSIONS

Our conclusions regarding the salient points of Dr. Bern's and Ms. Brands letter can be summarized as follows:

- 1. We agree that:
  - a. if dioxin were no longer as limiting a consideration as it now is,
  - b. if a more cost effective remedy could be designed to treat whatever volume of affected material exists,
  - c. if that alternate remedy can meet the cleanup criteria defined in the ROD, and
  - d. if EPA will retain all other aspects of the ROD but be willing to be flexible in accepting an alternate; possibly innovative, cost effective remedy for the fine material remaining after sieve and wash, we would be in favor of pursuing an alternative remedy in lieu of the present ROD required remedy.
- 2. We strongly disagree with Dr. Bern's estimate that only three percent of the total excavated material will require incineration, and
- 3. We do not agree that our data regarding dioxin, c-PNAs or PCP is wrong or inconclusive; we have a substantial amount of information and we plan to supplement it in the predesign phase.
- 4. We do not agree that Dr. Bern's proposed \$8,000 sampling program can or will provide any more conclusive or useful data than that which will be obtained by the comprehensive sampling program already required by the SOW.

Ms. Jean A. Mescher McKesson Corporation March 9, 1992

As mentioned at the beginning of this letter, we certainly accept Dr. Bern's and Ms. Brand's theoretical premise that it makes sense to use the most cost effective means to treat whatever volume of affected soil may exist. We do not feel, however, that if one were to consider all the facts available it would be reasonable to expect Dr. Bern's remedy to meet that criteria.

Sincerely,

ERM-SOUTHWEST, INC.

W. Well for

Ronald T. Grimes, P.E.

RTG/sms: Aposonar Attachments

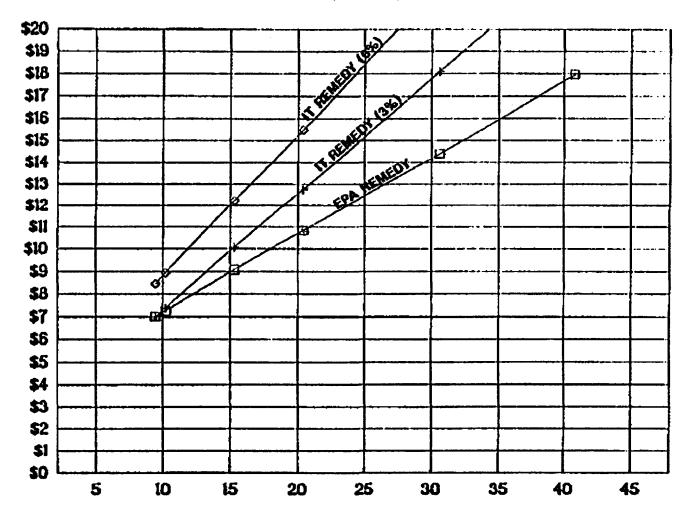
cc: Dinah L. Szander, Esq., McKesson Corp.
Robert Ritchie, McKesson Corp.
Bob Barker, Mass Merchandisers, Inc.
Allan Gates, Mitchell, Williams, Selig & Tucker
Douglas Diehl, ERM-Southwest, Inc.
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# VOLUME SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

ARKWOOD SITE, OMAHA, ARKANSAS



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TOTAL ESTIMATED COST (Millions)

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# PRELMANARY COMPANAINS COST ESTIMATE DETAIL

### Escrem Group FS Comments Artempted Site, Ometic, Artemate

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Enopole Affected Sets					:	9,444.007	2.60	33,064	: 8,444,807	3.80	33,064	: 8,444 BCY	2.00	33,064	
Cine and Wash Solls	:	20,400 BCY		62	1,000,000		76	463,600		75	462,600		25	442,609	
Giove Scille	:				;	4,600 TONS	20	220,000	: 6,400 TONS	50	\$30,000	: 4,600 TONS	60	\$30,000	
Becital Treeted Scal	:	14,980 GCV	1	10	21,420	8,100 BCY	1.82	13,740	: BASO SCY	L30	14,020	: 4140 SCY	1.50	12,740	
Motestment - Soils and Studge	:				1	4.600 5CY	176	621,903	: 4,000 BCY	178	461,900	: 4,500 BCY	170	491,990	
Sits Feelities & Utilises—Capital	£				1	118	77,000	77,000	: 1L6	77,000	17,000	: 1U	77,000	77,000	
Stafeellies & Ullise-Opet	;				:	118	143,000	144,000	: 1US	163,000	183,000	1 148	142,003	163,000	
Glipits Inchreration	:				;				•			•			
Trensportation	;				:	221,0404	1,060	23,100	: 44LQAQS	L/OSO	46,200	: 80 LOADS	1,060	\$0,460	
<b>Inclusivation</b>	:					476 TOMS	2,000	962,003	: 9637QN8	2,000	1,005,000	: 630 TQNS	2,000	1,200,000	
Subshit .	•				1,002,220			3,067,700	: :		4,044,470			3,353,149	
Cont. Owhol From & Bonds	:	1,002,200 8UM	3	7%	216,444	2,002,000 SUM	2016	414,540	: : 9,002,870 \$UM	20%	418,456	: 2,092,460 SVA4	20% (	414,549	
Contractor	:	1,300,004 \$UM	2	<b>M</b>	124,405	3,406,300 \$UM	25%	471,546	: 4,402,035 SUM	26%	1,116,724	: \$.001,000 SUM	26%	960,422	
Eng & Connt. Serv.	ŧ	1,623,330 SUM	9	<b>7</b> 6	\$24,000	-,5-5-,5-5-5-	20%	B/1,545	: 3,570,000 BUM	2016	1,116,734		20%	960,422	
Tall the same of the same of	:			•					:			*			
Subtated, Blows and Mach Distress	:				1,048,000			6,330,000	<b>:</b> •		4,804,000	:		6,705,000	
	:								:			:			
	:				****				•			•			
total esimated project cost	:				10,832,000 :			6,806,000	•		4,460,000	:		7,466,009	
	*			•	**************************************			44499	\$ *		440000	κ !			
CHAITE INCHERATION	Ē				4,304,760			0	- !		0	· •		•	
OFFEITE MOKETATION	1				a:			975,100	1		1,042,000	:		1,240,009	



# TABLE 1 PRELIMINARY COMPARATIVE COST EXTINATE DETAIL

### Econom Group FS Community Administration Oracles, Arbeites

	1 PARENEDY MO QUANTITIES IN 1 (AND MODERAL (AND ANTITIONAL) IN THE CONTRACT ON YEARING
600 animandah	REMAND CONTRACTOR CONT
ACO REMEDIATION	: ESTIMATED ESTIMATED ESTIMATED ESTIMATED ESTIMATED : ESTIMATED ESTIMATED ESTIMATED ESTIMATED : COST : CUMULTY UNITS UNITCOST COST : CUMULTY UNITCOST COST : CUMULTY UNITCOST COST : CUMULTY UNITCOST COST COST COST COST COST COST COST

### MOTER

- m HT 1802, Table Scatter EFILE-Bouthwest 1000, Table 8-16.
- b IT 1946 Table & percentage
- e IT 1996, Table & subtotal
- C elder James 78 D
- # Unit majobé indensed from (7 volume and weight)
- 1 (7 1000, Yabin-1; unit cost informed from iT ope, and iT subtotal.
- m If 1806, Table is insufficient detail provided to evaluate.
- h Bild-Southwest 1985, quoted in IT 1987, Table 3.
- 8 Telephone custo ficilius Embroamental Services (TC), Houston, Tenne (no dicein TEC > 30 velle).
- \$ Cost of an-elle trabacator contenter eventeed profit, and bendy included in trait cost noted above.
- It Cost wigit-elle heut and incheseton contractor available, profit, and beaute included in unit cost nated above.

### REFERENCES:

EFRA-Southwest (200. Treeshilly Skrig, Artmood, Inc. Sin, Omeha, Arkmonet, EFRA-Southwest, Inn., Houston Tesse, May 21, 1000.
IT 1802 Letter tie FAX, J. Bern to M. C. Brand IT Corp., February 13, 1002 (not signed).





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION B 1445 ROSS AVE DALLAS, TX 75202

# FACSIMILE REQUEST



and cover sheet

FROM THE HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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